



Fair Political Practices Commission

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NEWS ADVISORY

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Internet Commission presents findings at Feb. 10 meeting

Discussion of U.S. Supreme Court campaign reform ruling also on agenda

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The findings and recommendations of the Bipartisan California Commission on Internet Political Practices will be discussed at the monthly meeting of the Fair Political Practices Commission on **Tuesday, Feb. 10.**

Internet Commission Chair Geoffrey Cowan, dean of the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California, will present the commission's findings to the FPPC. Other staff from the Internet Commission will also attend the meeting.

The Internet Commission was created by AB 2720, by former Assemblyman Keith Olberg (R-Victorville). The commission consists of members appointed by the leadership of the Legislature, the FPPC, the secretary of state and the governor. It has examined issues posed by Internet campaign activity in light of the goals and purposes of the Political Reform Act of 1974.

The Internet Commission's report provides information regarding the scope of online political activity and examines issues raised by this activity. According to the report, "(The) Commission believes that the Internet and associated new technologies, if allowed to flourish, increasingly will be used in ways that improve the quality of campaigns and elections."

A copy of the report is available on the FPPC website. Go to the home page at www.fppc.ca.gov and click on the "Bipartisan California Commission on Internet Political Practices" button. **This agenda item (#13) is scheduled for 1 p.m. during Tuesday's meeting, in the eighth-floor hearing room of FPPC headquarters at 428 J St. (5th and J Streets) in Sacramento. The meeting begins at 9:45 a.m.**

In other business, the FPPC will discuss a staff report on the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision on the federal Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 (BCRA), also known as the McCain-Feingold campaign reform measure. The decision, *McConnell, United States Senator, et al. v. Federal Election Commission et al.*, responded to several legal challenges to new federal laws regulating modern campaign practices and effectively supplements the court's seminal 1976

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decision in *Buckley v. Valeo*. Prepared by Senior Commission Counsel Lawrence T. Woodlock and General Counsel Luisa Menchaca, the staff report describes modern campaign practices that gave rise to BCRA, outlines the reasoning used by the court's majority to uphold the constitutionality of the regulations, and presents potential implications for the Political Reform Act. (**Agenda Item #12**)

The Feb. 10 agenda is posted on the FPPC website at: www.fppc.ca.gov. Click on "Agendas" on the left side of the home page, and go to "Current Agenda."

Proposed enforcement stipulations, orders and exhibits can be obtained from the website by clicking on the link in that agenda item. Memoranda regarding other items on the agenda are also accessible by clicking on the links in those agenda items on the website.

Letters responding to items on the agenda after it was posted on the website 10 days prior to the meeting can be found at the top of the agenda on the website.

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